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respect to a main axis of the array, and each of the sensitivity directions being associated with a respective one of the array output signals, each array output signal being fitted to its own transmission path, one to the left ear and another to the right ear of the hard of hearing user.--

[Amend claim 4 as follows:]

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--4. (twice amended) Hearing aid according to claim 2, characterized in that the pair of spectacles comprises two arms, wherein the array of microphones is further mounted on the arms.--

[Amend claim 5 as follows:]

--5. (thrice amended) Hearing aid according to claim 1, characterized in that the means for deriving the array output signals comprises a summing device (18), one of the array output signals being connected to an output of the summing device, each of a plurality of the electrical output microphone signals being fed via a respective weighting factor device to an input of the summing device.--

[Amend claim 6 as follows:]

--6. (thrice amended) Hearing aid according to claim 1, characterized in that the means for deriving the array output signals comprises a series circuit of a number of summing device (23, 24, 25, 26) and weighting factor device (18, 19, 20, 27) pairs, within each pair, an output of the weighting factor device

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driving a first input of the summing device, a first of the electrical output microphone signals being connected to an input of said weighting factor device of a first of said pairs, a second input of the summing devices being connected to a respective one of the electrical output microphone signals.--

[Amend claim 7 as follows:]

--7. (amended) Hearing aid according to claim 6, further comprising an additional said weighting factor device connected to an output of the series circuit of summing device and weighting factor pairs.--

REMARKS

This application has been amended so as to place it in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Ni for his most helpful participation in the personal interview of October 21, 2002.

The Official Action rejects claims 1-11 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested for the following reasons:

The first basis for this rejection is identified in the Official Action as follows: "In claim 1, the word 'means' (line 6) is preceded by the word(s) 'deriving' in an attempt to use a 'means' clause to recite a claim element as a means for